

M I D D L E E A S T A N D S O U T H A S I A R E V I E W

8 DECEMBER 1982

Inter-Arab Affairs

Members of the Arab League delegation left Beijing following talks held to explain the Fes summit plan, XINHUA reported. Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stated that the delegation achieved "extremely positive" results during its visit to the PRC, Riyadh radio reported citing remarks the minister made to the Pakistani news agency. However, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam told Damascus radio that although the delegation will meet soon to assess the results of its contacts and to submit a detailed report to the Arab countries, the group's contacts yielded no new developments and there is no reason to call for an Arab summit.

Jordan

King Husayn, the leader of the Arab delegation visiting China, began an official visit to China on 7 December at the invitation of the National People's Congress and the Chinese Government, XINHUA reported. The Chinese Government marked the start of this portion of the Jordanian monarch's visit with a ceremony attended by PRC Premier Zhao Ziyang and high-ranking representatives of the PRC Government, XINHUA noted. The two leaders held talks during the day and met again at a banquet hosted by the PRC premier, according to XINHUA reports. At the banquet, Zhao Ziyang affirmed that he and Husayn had reached a "convergence of views" on Middle East issues; both leaders praised the state of bilateral relations and expressed the hope that these relations will improve in the future, XINHUA added. King Husayn met on 8 December with CCP Central Advisory Commission Chairman Deng Xiaoping, who reiterated China's support for the Arab people, XINHUA noted.

Lebanon

Ghali Visit -- Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali arrived in Beirut on 8 December and met with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Cairo radio reported. In a statement reported by the radio, Ghali said the purpose of his visit is to convey a message from President Husni Mubarak to President Amin al-Jumayyil and to inform the Lebanese leaders of Egypt's solidarity with them and their people.

Security Situation -- Druze gunmen killed two Phalangists and wounded three others in an ambush in the 'Alayh area, IDF radio reported. Noting that the attack could lead to further Christian-Druze fighting, the radio said the IDF has closed off access roads to 'Alayh. Nevertheless, the Druze and Christians exchanged a number of kidnap victims, according to Beirut radio.

Reporting on incidents elsewhere, Beirut radio said that two Syrian truck drivers were killed by a car bomb in Barr Ilyas and that an explosion in the northern city of Tripoli killed 2 persons and wounded 13 others. Pro- and anti-Syrian groups clashed in Tripoli on 8 December, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Israeli troops sealed off large sectors of the southern coastal city of Sidon on 8 December, AFP reported.

PLO

PLO Leaders in Yemen -- Following his talks with Saudi leaders, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat flew from Riyadh to San'a', where he held talks with YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, according to San'a' radio reports. Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DPFLP), also arrived in the YAR, the radio noted. Earlier, the DPFLP leader delivered a speech at a Palestinian camp in the PDRY in which he rejected President Ronald Reagan's peace plan and also condemned all attempts to fragment the PLO. In his address, which was broadcast by Aden Voice of Palestine radio, Hawatimah praised the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist fighters who confronted the Israeli invasion of Lebanon while the armed forces of Arab regimes remained passive.

Relations With Soviet Union -- Yasir 'Arafat sent the CPSU Central Committee a telegram stressing the PLO's firm desire to strengthen ties with the Soviet people and with the peoples of all socialist countries, according to the text of the telegram broadcast by Moscow television.

Maghreb Affairs

Algerian-Moroccan Summit -- Arab diplomatic sources in Rabat expect an Algerian-Moroccan summit conference to be convened before the end of the year, the Riyadh daily AL-JAZIRAH claimed. Both countries have given Saudi Arabia's King Fahd their agreement in principle to attend the summit, which is expected to deal with the Saharan crisis and with normalizing Algerian-Moroccan relations, the paper added.

Iran-Libya

'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, and a 10-man delegation arrived in Tehran at the invitation of the Iranian foreign minister, IRNA reported. The head of the Libyan delegation told IRNA that his country wants to expand relations with Iran.

Afghanistan

At least 100 civilians died during the past 2 weeks as a result of heavy shelling of villages surrounding Kabul, AFP reported, citing information obtained from Western diplomats and resistance fighters. More than 50 of these deaths occurred during a 22 November raid on three villages north of Kabul, AFP added. The rebels reportedly captured a "substantial" number of Afghan officers in November, AFP noted.

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100 DIE DURING 'HEAVY SHELLING OF VILLAGES'

BK071722 Hong Kong AFP in English 1707 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 7 (AFP) -- At least 100 civilians died during heavy shelling of villages surrounding Kabul by Soviet-Afghan forces in the past two weeks, according to Western diplomatic sources and information from resistance fighters.

More than 50 were killed during a raid on three villages north of the capital on November 22, which was among several raids carried out by MiG fighter jets and Soviet helicopters. Later the same day troops smashed down doors and ransacked houses, taking radios, jewelry and all objects of value.

The sources said the raids followed the same pattern of shelling heralding the arrival of convoys of armoured cars and troops, and were intended to spread confusion among the rebel bases and recruit any available able-bodied men.

Villagers whose homes had been destroyed were being forced to seek shelter in Kabul or flee to Pakistan. This continual exodus was seen here as weakening the mujahideen resistance, which relies on the local population for food.

Other similar raids were reported in the Paghman region, west of Kabul, and around Jalalabad to the east, where resistance, according to Pakistan-based resistance circles, is strong. The mujahideen fear that if these lightning raids continue all winter, they will be forced to restrict their activities to the capital.

But in the Kandahar region they carried out two spectacular attacks on military convoys last month, according to diplomatic sources. In one ambush on the road to Herat, 20 kms (12 miles) west of Kandahar, a column of 30 armoured cars was destroyed.

In Kandahar, the southern capital, the mujahideen have been stepping up their guerrilla operations against military posts inside the city. Only a year since the Soviet raided rebel strongholds in the heart of the city, the resistance fighters seem to have regrouped and are putting government troops on the defensive.

There is fighting every night and the rebels captured a "substantial" number of Afghan officers during November, said diplomatic sources.

Meanwhile in Kabul bomb attacks have been steadily increasing over the past month, with several explosions last week, said the diplomatic sources.

Breaking their customary silence, the Afghan authorities have given maximum publicity to some of the explosions which claimed lives, and to the arrest and execution of those responsible, described variously as anti-social elements and counter-revolutionaries.

105 CIVILIANS 'BURNED TO DEATH' IN MID SEPTEMBER

BK071507 Hong Kong AFP in English 1449 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 7 (AFP) -- Soviet authorities burned to death 105 Afghan civilians including old people and children hiding in an underground irrigation canal in mid-September, a three-man commission of the Russell Tribunal has concluded.

A number of witnesses, interviewed by the commission during a secret visit to Afghanistan from November 26 to December (?4) said the 105 civilians had been discovered hiding in the underground irrigation canal near Padkhwab-e-Shana village, 60 km (36 miles) south of Kabul, by Soviet soldiers on September 13.

The Russians reportedly dammed up one end of the canal, causing the water to rise, then injected an inflammable substance. An enormous explosion ensued, which burned everyone inside to death, the commission reported.

Commission members Michael Barry, Ricardo Fraile and Michel Baret visited clandestinely the site of the reported massacre on the night of December 3 and found the canal wall blackened, apparently by an inflammable substance.

Local witnesses said they waited until the next day, after the departure of the Russians, before entering the canal and retrieving the bodies.

The Russell Tribunal, which looks into allegations of human rights abuses, plans to hold an exposition on Afghan war crimes in Paris from December 16 to 20.

MEDICAL COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH INDIA

LD030014 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Dec 82

[Text] A medical cooperation protocol was concluded today in the Ministry of Public Health between the DRA Government and the Republic of India by the respective authorities of the two countries.

The protocol was signed and exchanged between (Sayyed Amin Perwan), first deputy minister of public health, and Professor Dr (Saigal), head of public health of the Republic of India, in the presence of Habi Kamyar, minister of public health, and J.N. Dixit, Indian ambassador in Kabul.

According to this protocol, the Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of India will give grant-in-aid assistance to the construction of a new maternity hospital with a 300-bed capacity and its annex to the extension of a children's hospital with a capacity of 100 beds including equipment and a polyclinic, and to the disabled institute for recovery.

An informed source said the extension of the children's hospital to be built beside the present hospital will begin in the near future. The construction work of the new midwifery and maternity hospital will be started next year across from the Ministry of Commerce after the completion of the plan and design work.

TWO FORMER KASHMIR PRESIDENTS ARRESTED

BK081302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] A PTI report says that military authorities in Pakistan have arrested two former presidents of the occupied Kashmir -- Sardar Mohmaad Ibrahim Khan and Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan; 350 workers of the opposition united front also have been taken into custody. The arrests follow the growing agitation in the area against army rule.

ENVOY DENIES AFGHAN CHARGES ON CAMPS, WEAPONS

BK061038 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the allegations of the Karmal regime's envoy that armed forces are trained in neighboring countries and sent to Afghanistan. Pakistani envoy (Jamshed Markar) told the fourth extraordinary session of the general conference of UNESCO in Paris that UN organizations regularly inspect the Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan and they have denied the existence of any training camp or the movement of weapons there. He said foreign journalists have complete freedom to visit anywhere in Pakistan and they also have acknowledged that no such training camps exist there.

OFFICIALS HOLD TALKS WITH IRANIAN MINISTER

GF050628 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Dec 82

[Excerpt] According to a Central News Unit report, 'Asgar-Owladi, commerce minister of our country, who is at present visiting Pakistan as head of a delegation, yesterday met with Hamid Habib, Pakistani minister of foreign trade [name and title as heard], and members of the Union for Foreign Trade in Pakistan and held talks with them.

In this meeting, the Pakistan minister for foreign trade praised the achievements of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the Iranian trade policy regarding Muslim and Third World countries. The Pakistan minister for foreign trade with regard to the progress made in trade exchanges between Pakistan and Iran said it is possible that at times the standards of goods may not be as had been desired. However, it is being stressed to the Pakistani exporters that their standards should conform with the standards stipulated in the agreements.

At this point, 'Asgar-Owladi, our commerce minister, explained the purpose of the visit of the Iranian economic delegation to Pakistan and said that the visit had been satisfactory. He also said that there are no problems in Iranian-Pakistani trade relations.

'Asgar-Owladi in reference to sale of oil to Third World countries who are in need of oil, while clarifying the proposals regarding an Islamic common market, said that with regard to an Islamic common market, there have been repeated discussions but little action.

Trade Agreement Detailed

GF031457 Karachi DAWN in English 30 Nov 82 p 12

[Text] Iran has placed orders totalling Rs. 1400 million for various Pakistani goods this year following the long-term bilateral trade agreement between the two countries in April.

Informed sources told DAWN that confirmed letters of credit for Rs. 795 million had already been received by Pakistani exporters from Iranian private sector importers.

Pakistan has exported 50,000 tons of wheat to Iran, shipments of which are currently in progress, while under the agreement 100,000 tons of sugar, another 50,000 tons of wheat, 50,000 tons urea fertiliser, 45,000 tons of irri rice, 100 million metres of textile, 2,000 tons of cotton yarn, 4,000 tons of carbon black and 20 million metres of tarpaulin are to be exported.

Iran has so far placed orders for cotton yarn (Rs.324 million), cloth (Rs. 242 m), papersacks (Rs. 50.8 million), canvas/cotton cloth (Rs. 48 m), leather (Rs. 33 m), wool (Rs. 35 m), besides other goods in varying quantities.

The Iranian minister of commerce, Mr. Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi, arrived in Islambad yesterday to review the progress of the bilateral agreement.

Pakistan has to import a minimum of 500,000 tons of crude oil and sources said shipments had started in August last at a rate of 10,000 barrels per day. The imports could be doubled once the international complications involved in oil trade were resolved, they said.

The two countries have already evolved a sound mechanism to regulate the trade. The State Bank of Pakistan and the Bank of Markazi Iran have opened special dollar accounts and have exchanged loans of ten million dollars cash (Rs. 127 million at current exchange rate) to maintain the trade balance. The loans carry a six per cent per annum fixed interest rate.

Trade between the two countries was heavily tilted towards Pakistan in the last three years with Pakistan exports totalling Rs. 2.32 billion in 1980/81 and Rs. 531 million up to March this year.

Transport Agreement Considered

GF061734 Karachi DAWN in English 5 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] Iran is ready to sign a special transport agreement with Pakistan which will allow Pakistani exports to send their cargo right up to Tehran via the land route. Iranian Deputy Commerce Minister 'Ali Naqi Khamushi said here yesterday.

He told a gathering of Pakistani exporters that such an agreement could be reached whenever the Pakistan Government so desired. "There are no problems on our side. You have only to send a responsible official delegation to Tehran and it could be signed", he said responding to questions from the exporters.

Mr Khamushi, who is the deputy leader of a 22-member delegation to Pakistan to review the progress of the special trade pact signed in April this year, which envisages \$250 million trade each way, later told DAWN that it looked difficult to meet the target this year because both the countries had to overcome initial problems and difficulties.

"We, however, hope that Pakistan would become a major trading partner with the passage of time when both the business communities get to know each other well."

The Iranian minister said Pakistan had agreed to produce sugar of special specifications for Iran and a delegation would visit Pakistan within a couple of weeks to finalise the details.

The Pak-Iran trade agreement provides for export of 100,000 tons of sugar to Iran this year but because of different specifications, Iran has not as yet started importing the commodity. Mr Khamushi told the exporters that after the revolution in Iran a serious effort was being made to convert the Iranian society from highly consumer oriented to one of austerity based on the Islamic way of life.

"This has shifted the direction of our imports from the modern Western industrial countries to our Muslim brothers and neighbours", he said.

He complained that Pakistan, despite having a diverse industrial base, had done very little to explore the Iranian market. "I for myself did not know the Pakistani potential of producing engineering goods until I visited the Pakistan pavilion in New Delhi earlier this year. But in the Tehran trade fair last September the Pakistani pavilion was only 250 meters large," he said. This, he stressed, was due to an information gap and more frequent exchange of trade delegations could largely remove this hurdle.

The vice chairman of the export promotion bureau, Mr Mohammed Yusuf, informed the meeting that in the next Tehran fair Pakistan would not only have a pavilion equal to the one it had in New Delhi, but a single-country exhibition could also be arranged before that time. He also attended a luncheon hosted by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry earlier in the day.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,145

LD071756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Communique No 1,145 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In his exalted name. The situation at the battlefronts of the imposed war during the last 24 hours are hereby brought to the attention of the Muslim nation. A sporadic exchange of fire continued in battles on the western fronts of the country yesterday. Thank to the fire of the powerful combatants of Islam on the Sumar fronts, two mortar launchers and one machinegun of the Saddamists were destroyed and a number of their personnel were either killed or wounded.

Our combatants on the Qasr-e Shirin and Naftshahr fronts also opened fire on the enemy, setting one of their ammunition depots on fire and destroying several weapon bunkers and observation posts along with the troops deployed in them.

A sporadic exchange of fire also continued on the southern fronts. While consolidating and guarding their own defensive positions, the combatants of Islam returned the fire of the Saddamist mercenaries. By halting enemy movements and silencing their fire, our forces inflicted losses and damages on them.

During exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, our combatants returned enemy fire and pounded Saddamist positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud. The enemy fire was silenced and some losses were inflicted on them. Yesterday, the Saddamist criminals also shelled some districts of Abadan and Khorramshahr with their long-range artillery.

During the past 24 hours, several intruding planes of the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces tried to violate the airspace of several regions in the western parts of the country. However, the enemy planes were forced to flee by the tactics of the fighter planes of our Air Force and by the fire from our air defense units.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI AIRCRAFT ATTACK GILAN-E GHARB 7 DECEMBER

LD071746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] According to a report of the Central News Unit, after the advance of the soldiers of Islam toward Karbala of Husayn, may peace be upon him, the aircraft of the cowardly Zionist enemy attacked the city of Gilan-e Gharb at 1250 today. As a result, 9 Muslim inhabitants of this city were martyred and 28 others were wounded. The wounded were promptly taken to the city's Vali-ye 'Asr Hospital. The same report also says that Saddam's mercenaries shelled Sar-e Pol-e Zahab with their long-range artillery at noon today. Several residential units were damaged as a result of this shelling.

IRNA REPORTS ON RECENT MILITARY OPERATIONS

GF071650 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Abadan, Dec 7, IRNA -- More than 20 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded over the past 24 hours when the Iranian forces fired on the enemy positions beyond the Arvand River. The Iraqis also lost nine group bunkers, one calibre 50 gun, one 106-mm gun position, one observation mast and one RPG-7 position in the said operations. Meanwhile, the Iraqi long-range artillery fire damaged two residential units in Abadan on Monday.

KHOMEYNI MESSAGE ON COUNCIL OF EXPERTS ELECTIONS

LD071934 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Excerpts] In connection with the Council of Experts elections, Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has sent the following message:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As I have pointed out before, the people are free to vote for suitable persons. Nobody has the right to force anybody to vote. I hope the noble people of Iran will pour into the polling stations on the day of the election with a common aim and cast their votes. This is an important, divine deed which the corrupt ones oppose most -- and that is due to its importance.

It is necessary to point out something which is often heard. That is, God forbid, that during their election campaigns some candidates might bring down or insult others. In this connection, I should point out that such actions -- especially by candidates -- would be tragic for Islam and the Islamic Republic today.

I ask God Almighty for greatness for Islam and Muslims and everlasting glory for the great nation of Iran.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyi, 7 December 1982

SPOKESMAN SAYS VOTING TO BEGIN 10 DECEMBER

LD071200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Excerpt] On the eve of the Council of Experts and Majlis by elections, a spokesman for the elections supervisory board spoke to our correspondent, outlining the role of supervisors during the voting: Voting will begin at 0700 on Friday, 10 December, and will continue for 10 hours. Referring to the voting age for both elections, he said the minimum age is 15.

LIBYAN'S AL-'UBAYDI ARRIVES TO DISCUSS RELATIONS

GF071808 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7, IRNA -- The Libyan Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi and Information Minister ('Abd ar-Rahman Shalqam) arrived here today at the head of a 10-man delegation. They were welcomed at the airport by Foreign Minister Velayati and Minister of Ershad-e Islami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami.

Head of the delegation, Al-'Ubaydi, told IRNA that the trip took place at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart to discuss mutual relations and to follow up the letter of understanding signed during the visit of Prime Minister 'Abd as-Salam Jallud here in May.

He concluded that we are trying to expand the brotherly relations between Libya and the Islamic Republic of Iran, adding that Libya viewed Iran as a strong fortification against imperialism in this region of the Islamic world.

Speaking about Libya's stand on the participation of France as an observer in the non-aligned summit meet to be held in New Delhi, he said that with regards to the role France played in the Atlantic Ocean and in the light of the fact that France was considered a big power we would prefer it would not attend the summit.

Yet, he continued, the issue had still to be consulted with our friends in the Non-aligned Movement who are against the movements partiality and its being under domination of the superpowers.

Meets With Velayati

GF080843 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the Committee for Foreign Liaison of our brother country Libya and the information and culture minister, together with an accompanying delegation, last night met and held talks with Messrs Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, and Khatami, minister of the Islamic guidance, and other Iranian officials.

In the meeting, Velayati stated: It is a pleasure for us to have good brotherly relations with the Islamic and revolutionary country of Libya; these relations increase day by day. Velayati added that the number of plots of the enemies of Islam and the Muslims is so great that the Muslims cannot ignore them and they must unite or else they will become weaker day by day against the enemy of Islam, which is a united front of infidelity and atheism. At the end, Velayati said the Muslims should be aware that the only axis that can save them is the axis of Islam.

'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, while thanking the minister of foreign affairs and the minister of Islamic guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, then said: Our nation and revolutionary leadership value the lofty leadership and magnificent revolutionary roles of your leader, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni. He further emphasized: The Islamic brotherhood has tied us together and enabled us to coordinate and to adopt a firm stand against the countries that have broken from Islamic and Arabic traditions and have joined the stands of imperialism and Zionism. We also think as you do that nations -- whether Arabs or Iranians or Turks -- must assemble around the axis of Islam.

At the end of this meeting, political, cultural and technical committees were formed to discuss cooperation between the two countries.

VELAYATI MEETS SAHARAN COUNTERPART 4 DECEMBER

GF041700 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA -- Foreign Minister Hakim Ibrahim of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic said today that the attack by Iraqi forces on the Islamic Republic of Iran should be analysed within the context of global U.S. conspiracies.

Speaking in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, he said that, in reality this war has been imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran with the joint planning of the U.S. and the regional reactionary governments.

Ibrahim also said that his government tried to counter the conspiracy by the U.S., France and the reactionary countries aimed at sabotaging the success of the conference of the Organisation of African Unity. He said his country's delegation tried to counter this conspiracy by withdrawing voluntarily from the conference. But again we saw that their (the reactionary regimes) excuse this time was the reactionary regime of Chad thus resulting in the defeat of the conference.

Foreign Minister Velayati during the meeting said that the Islamic Republic of Iran believed that if the Muslims adopted a policy of reconciliation they would only face abjectness and contempt. It is a mistake to think that the Satans topped by the great satan, the U.S., would cease their plots against the Muslims if they adopted a policy of reconciliation.

He added that all movements in the region which are fighting against the U.S. and the reactionary rulers should allow pure Islam to be the motivating factor in their struggle.

Concerning the U.S. inspired Moroccan regime, Velayati said that King Hassan had made Morocco into an important base for the U.S. and it was through his regime that the U.S. suppressed the justice-seeking struggles of the Saharan people as well as the people of Morocco. He said that the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic should expand and strengthen its cooperation with the Moroccan people in order to bring an end to King Hassan's rule.

Sahrawi foreign minister arrived here this morning.

Hakim Ibrahim Departs

GF071700 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7 IRNA -- Foreign minister of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Hakim Ibrahim, left Tehran today after a four-day visit.

Hakim who is also member of the Political Bureau of the Polisario liberation front, was seen off at the airport by the Iranian foreign affairs minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati and other officials.

Speaking to IRNA prior to his departure, he said that his meetings with the Iranian officials, including President Khamene'i as well as Foreign Minister Velayati were highly productive.

He further stressed that his visit to Iran provided him with a good opportunity to witness the enthusiastic support of the people of the country for the Islamic revolution of Iran.

COMMERCE MINISTER RETURNS FROM PAKISTANI TOUR

GF071616 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] Zahedan, Dec. 7 IRNA -- Commerce Minister Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi on Monday night arrived in this capital of Baluchestan va Sistan on his way back from a tour of Pakistan where he visited at the head of an Iranian economic and trade delegation.

'Asgar-Owladi went to Pakistan at the invitation of Pakistan Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Gulam Ishaq Khan.

He had a brief stopover at Quetta, capital of Pakistan's Baluchestan Province where he visited Bolan textile mill which is considered to be a maj. textile complex of Pakistan.

'Asgar-Owladi was received at the Zahedan Airport by the provincial officials. He also attended a meeting of several provincial officials to get a first-hand knowledge about various economic and commercial aspects of the province.

RAFSANJANI ADDRESSES SISTAN VA BALUCHESTAN GUARDS

GF060816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Dec 82

[Text] Twenty members of the Islamic revolution guards from Iranshahr last night called on Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis.

According to an IRNA report, at this meeting, the commander of the Islamic revolution guards of Iranshahr outlined the social and economic situation in Sistan va Baluchestan Province. At this point, Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the strategic importance of Sistan va Baluchestan for the enemies of Islam and the revolution and said that because in this region both Sunni and Shi'ite factions live side by side, the Western nations and Russia thought of this place as fertile ground for sowing discord among the people. So the leftists with the backing from the Russians and the rightists with backing of the Western powers invested their energies into this region. However, in view of what you have experienced, both Western and Eastern plots have been defeated.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani with regard to the active work of the Islamic forces in this region said: If the hezbollahi and crusading forces had not taken prompt action in Sistan va Baluchestan and had not educated the people, the situation might have been very different. However, the vigilance of young men like you prevented a very dangerous situation and you should know that you have done a very great task indeed and that you have defended a very important position for us. Although Sistan va Baluchestan is obviously not a warfront. In fact, this region is a very important front. If, God forbid, something unpleasant happens there, it would become a great headache for the Islamic Republic and the revolution. Therefore, your presence, as the men who work for God and your own convictions, and not for money or power, rule or influence, your services are very valuable.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also spoke of the hardships of this region: We are fully convinced that Sistan va Baluchestan from the point of view of interest is a region needing attention as the people of this region have a long history of hardship and have been the oppressed ones throughout history. And, if we are human, if we are Muslims, and statesmen, we must do something to improve the conditions in this region.

The speaker of the Majlis then referred to the current programs of the government for the Sistan va Baluchestan region saying, the Islamic Republic must make a greater investment of capital into the region, and in the budget of the current year a greater sum already has been allocated for development of this region. And apart from this, a 20-year development plan has been envisaged for this region that will include the building of piers on the banks of the (Azad) River and the development of roads. In the future, Sistan va Baluchestan will realize its real value. It is essential that much more work should be done in this region than has been done so far.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani with regard to the need for complete security in the region said: In that region is a battlefield against counterrevolutionaries, smugglers and dangerous thieves. The East and West have their eyes on this region and you, who have been successful in defeating most of their plans in the region, should not allow them to scheme or operate there. You should consider yourselves as at the sharp end of a point.

The Majlis speaker in conclusion told those present: You can assure the people that the state officials have not forgotten Sistan va Baluchestan and will never forget it.

MAJLIS SPEAKER EXCLUDES ISRAELI, RSA RELATIONS

WA061200 Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 20 Nov 32 p 12

[Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani speech at University of Tehran on 19 November]

[Excerpts] Right now there is a great shortcoming in our society. However, in view of the present conditions and prevalence of accomplishments, the limit of possibilities is beyond that for a group of humans like us. You think our revolution has been completed and right now after the revolution we are reaping the fruits of the revolution. However, we are still in a state of revolution and we don't know when this revolution will reach its final results. Stability of the revolution is fully felt. A number of people thought the revolution ended with the fall of the shah and his replacement by the revolutionary government and might have expected that after the fall of the shah we should have all the impacts we expected and the slogans we shouted during the revolution would come true. These people thought our only obstacle was the shah. However, we also were fighting against America, Western exploitation, and the criminals who were governing us. The shah was the first conquered. The second bulwark was liberalism. America thought it could continue its presence in Iran under the cover of liberalism. The third bulwark, more dangerous than the second, was the leftwingers and the pseudoleft who, by means of revolutionary slogans, took advantage of the great stratum of young people. Thus, the conquest of this bulwark was more difficult; the mines planted in this bulwark still remain there.

Inside our country today, no decisions or steps, however large or small, can be approved and put into action under influence or force from outside the country. This independence and sovereignty are the most important values of the revolution. The policy of neither East nor West exists in all respects of Islamic Republic of Iran society.

There are Eastern and Western currents in our country that are using every opportunity to create such an atmosphere. Sometimes they say we have become friends with Turkey and Pakistan; they say the policy of neither West has been abandoned. And when a group of us attended the ceremonies of Brezhnev's funeral they said the policy of neither East was abandoned. The policy of neither East nor West is not for cutting off relations with East or West; Islam wants no such thing.

Relations call for certain conditions such as mutual respect, mutual rights, and other diplomatic formalities which should be practiced. However, Islam does not permit us to become attracted to an alien and atheistic nation like the Soviet Union or a colonialist and aggressive nation like the United States and place ourselves under this or that banner. We could have relations with all these countries on the basis of preserving independence and mutual respect -- except Israel whose existence is illegal or South Africa which is racist, cruel, and imposed on the backs of the blacks who are the majority. Attending ceremonies for countries' leaders is traditional and a diplomatic formality; these things do not take place without consulting the imam. These moves are to isolate us, which is treason, and our nation should take care to be aware of the movements inciting domestic current of the left and right in this problem and should not be affected by these suggestions.

KHOMAYNI DISCUSSES 'PROBLEM OF AGRICULTURE'

LD041220 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] 'Abdollah Nuri, the imam's representative at the reconstruction crusade, together with the members of the central council of the reconstruction crusade were received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the audience, the imam's representative introduced the members of the central council of the reconstruction crusades and reported to the imam of the Islamic nation on the present situation in the crusade, its activities in various fields, including the development of the countryside, rendering assistance to the warfronts and the reconstruction of the country. He then presented the imam of the Islamic nation with a number of statistics on the work carried out by the crusade and its war activities and the constitution of the reconstruction crusade. Imam Khomeyni then read a speech: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks to the issues reported by yourselves and others a great many acts of treachery perpetrated against this country and its people are being exposed with regard to the extent of the efforts carried out to prevent us from achieving anything, to bar the way to the brains that could have worked and attained scientific progress and to destroy our agriculture. You can see for yourselves how much of the country's land still remains unused and how much of the same resources, such as the waters of the Karun River, are being wasted.

Under the guise of wishing to have progress and industrializing our realm, the former regime resorted to agrarian reform as a pretext. Their problem was like that of a crow that wanted to learn the way a partridge walked but in the process forgot the way it walked itself. God willed and wrested the realm from their hands and the problems and decisions fell into the hands of the people themselves.

It is good and correct for you to say that there is some coordination in the work being carried out. This is because as long as the affairs are not run on a social basis and all individuals do not have a single course and aim, the tasks in hand will not make any progress. Today all our people wish to serve Islam and their country.

We see that at the same time that this country fell into our hands, we did not make any progress but the men therein have been transformed into ardent and active men. This is why we can carry out the tasks by ourselves. Although the United States does not want us to work and does not let us work, we and our nation, however, with the succor of the Almighty, should do something to prevent the United States from being an obstacle. Toward this end, it is essential for individual to acquaint themselves with the sciences, provided, of course, that these sciences serve the cause of the people. At any rate, our responsibilities are many and we ourselves should develop our realm. If we were to fail to carry out this task, we would fail in our thanksgiving to God.

The problem of agriculture tops all other issues in our country. Thank God that the realm from the standpoint of natural resources is doing very well. It is endowed with good water and land and its inhabitants are aware and are thinking of agriculture. The government should encourage and strengthen them and place the necessary facilities at their disposal.

I am grateful for the hard work being carried out by the gentlemen present. However, the main thing is that this hard work is being rewarded by God and the service to this people and particularly the country folk will not be in vain and you should endeavor to strengthen the spirit of faith in those individuals with whom you come in contact with the help of the clergy and sermons.

When the people's faith is strengthened all things are easy. For instance, how much hard work has this very reconstruction crusade carried out in the war! This is because of the serious way in which our young people think that the country is theirs and work for the cause of God. When they think this way, all work they are doing will make good progress. Things should not be such that if you were to discover a shortcoming or if a difficulty beset your work you should become downhearted. Continue your work.

I pray for you all and hope that God Almighty will graciously grant you success in serving these needy people, a fact which is to him tantamount to the greatest act of worship. Peace and God's mercy and benedictions be upon you!

ESFAHAN CITES CLASH WITH 'WAR-WAGING GROUP'

GF080654 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Esfahan announced that, with the blessings of the Almighty and the attention of the prophet, may God bless him and all his scion, a den of decadence of one of the war-waging groups fell into the hands of the Islamic fighters on 6 December. A number of the war-wagers, all puppets of international oppression, were annihilated. Details will be put at the disposal of the hezbollahi nation at a later date.

Please note that the sound of gunfire at midnight last night on Artesh Avenue was in connection with the clash with this war-waging group.

SPECIAL DISTRICT GUARDS PROSECUTOR APPOINTED

GF080714 Sari Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Summary from poor reception] According to a report by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of District No 3 [Gilan and Mazandaran Provinces] an Islamic revolution prosecutor of District No 3 has been appointed at the guards' headquarters in Sari and has started work. The office was formed to look into all violations and crimes of members of the guards on the basis of a decision by the Supreme Judicial Council. The crimes under consideration will be those committed during duty or crimes that fall under the jurisdiction of revolution courts, as well as any political crimes. The office operates under the direction of chief revolution prosecutor and the Supreme Judicial Council and is not a part of the Guards Corps. An investigation department of this office has opened branches in both Rasht and Sari. People have been invited to make their complaints and reports to these investigative offices.

FARS GOVERNOR REAPPOINTED; ISSUES STATEMENT

GF080658 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Statement issued by Fars governor general -- date, place no given]

[Text] In His exalted name. To the martyr-nurturing people of Fars, may the Lord help them. Following the decision by the Central Committee of the Islamic Republican Party [IRP] concerning my candidacy for the Majlis elections and my resignation as the governor general, I was faced with a great deal of concern expressed by many of the grateful people of the province. The respected Friday imams of the province, his eminence the Friday Imam of Shiraz and the respected officials of the province made a request to the Interior Ministry concerning my return. This request was approved by the IRP Central Committee. Since words escape me in expressing my appreciation for such a degree of kindness and appreciation for my service and makes the burden of responsibility heavier, I beg the Almighty to thank you and repay you and also pray for help for myself in carrying out my duties. May God's peace and benediction be upon you.

[Signed] N'ematollah Toqa', Fars governor general